

to support the flight, a monumental sum in 1932.

Darius and Girenas embarked on the first leg of their journey from Chicago to New York on May 7th, 1933, on their newly christened airplane, the LITUANICA. After various weather and organizational delays, the two men took off from New York bound for Lithuania on July 15th, carrying a large bag of letters destined for friends and family in Kaunas. Sadly, their plane was lost over the town of Soldin, Germany, 70 miles northeast of Berlin due to heavy storms, and they never reached Lithuania.

It is my great privilege to recognize Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas for their historic trans-Atlantic flight and their contributions to early aviation, to the American Lithuanian community, to Chicago—which has the largest Lithuanian community outside of Lithuania, and to the United States and Lithuania.

NEW YORK CARIB NEWS  
RECOGNIZES BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a June 24, 2008 article about Adolfo Carrion in the New York Carib News. Mr. Carrion is the Borough President of the Bronx and has served in that capacity since 2001.

In his seven years as President, Mr. Carrion has aided in bringing down unemployment and speeding up housing development in the borough. Most notable is Mr. Carrion's fresh approach to the economic mindset of those in the notoriously depressed neighborhoods of the South Bronx; he wants to "shift people's thinking about how they're going to succeed in the New York economy . . . from social intervention to economic growth and opportunity." Mr. Carrion's vision for a new way of facilitating economic growth through changing the way that people think is indicative of the innovation and economic will that Caribbean Americans contribute to the continued growth of the New York economy.

Mr. Carrion's next goal is to become the City Comptroller. He believes that the position will further help him elevate the economic standards in the borough as an integral part of the economic revival of the city as a whole. His success is yet another testament to the tenacious spirit and strong will of the millions of Caribbean immigrants that are so much a part of New York City and America.

HONORING EMMA ABERNATHY

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this June, the Fort Campbell community honored the life and service of a trusted and treasured teacher, the late Emma Green Evans Abernathy.

A dedicated teacher for over 40 years, Emma touched countless lives, especially dur-

ing her time teaching at Marshall Elementary on Fort Campbell. She provided much wisdom, encouragement, and counsel to military children and their parents by drawing upon her own experience as a military spouse.

After earning a degree in Elementary Education from Morris College in South Carolina, Emma later studied at South Carolina State College and Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Emma actively served as a member of Soldier's Chapel on Fort Campbell, where she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, and served as the Sunday School Superintendent. In addition, Emma contributed her time to such civic groups as the Order of the Eastern Star, the NAACP, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Along with Emma's husband, James Abernathy, her children and grandchildren, the entire Fort Campbell and Clarksville community celebrates the life of this remarkable woman.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the outstanding example of balancing family, business and community service that Emma set. Many Tennesseans are better for having known her.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, last month I was honored to participate in a ceremony honoring four local Kansas residents for their contributions to local communities and commitment to personal development. Honorees received the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal during a reception on Capitol Hill.

I was proud to help celebrate the achievements of these outstanding young men and women and honor them with this distinguished award. Their dedication to helping others and self-improvement is not only inspiring, but it reminds us that changing the world starts with each of us.

Sydney Ayers, one of today's recipients and a resident of Leawood, spoke during the June 19th ceremony, providing reflections on her achievement and the importance of community service.

Earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires a significant commitment, in both time and energy. Each participant must spend two years or more completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities and a 4-night Expedition or Exploration. The Congressional Award Gold Medal is the pinnacle of these achievements.

The 2008 Kansas 3rd District recipients are: Sydney Ayers, Leawood, worked with children and the elderly, volunteering at several locations across the United States and Mexico. She performed in plays, worked as the backstage manager for several productions and took ballroom dance lessons, in addition to playing high school tennis, USTA tennis and managing the boys' high school team. She also planned and completed a 5-day adventure in the Alaskan wilderness.

Benjamin Connell, Lenexa, volunteered at Lakeview Village Nursing Home and the Boys

and Girls Club, mentoring young children, facilitating anti-drug/alcohol lessons and tutoring. He also worked in the career development office at Kansas State University, learning how to teach and counsel students. Ben focused on exercising and participating in intramural sports and backpacked at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Christopher Connell, Lenexa, raised funds for charitable causes, mentored young children and helped the elderly with a variety of tasks in addition to working as a waiter at an assisted living facility. Cross Country running and lifting weights improved his 5K running time. Chris also spent six nights in the wilderness at Double H Ranch, which is associated with Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Nicholas Connell, Lenexa, shared his musical talent by preparing a repertoire of music, including Peter and the Wolf, on the oboe and holding public performances in several different venues. Nick's creative talents also include writing, for which he won a 1st place prize for a piece of short fiction. He pushed himself physically by running on a treadmill and consistently exercising on an elliptical machine, in addition to hiking over 60 miles at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

I am pleased to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two articles from the Kansas City Star highlighting this award and the outstanding young Kansans who received it.

[From the Kansas City Star, June 28, 2008]

LENEXA BROTHERS WIN CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL  
(By Alexia Lang)

Hard work and dedication earned three Lenexa brothers the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Benjamin, Christopher and Nicholas Connell traveled to Capitol Hill for the award ceremony recently; they were representing three out of four Kansas residents to receive the award. Sydney Ayers, 17, of Leawood, was the fourth recipient.

Congressman Dennis Moore participated in the ceremony, citing their achievements as inspiring.

"Their dedication to helping others and to self-improvement is not only inspiring, but it reminds us that changing the world starts with each of us," Moore said.

In order to qualify for the medal, applicants must spend two or more years completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness activities and a four-night expedition or exploration.

Nicholas Connell, 22, said his mother found out about the award and he decided to pursue it in 1999.

"It so happened that a lot of the requirements for the Congressional Award coincided with things I was already doing for Scouting, or with school activities, etc.," he said.

Nicholas prepared and performed music on the oboe for several public performances, including charity concerts at local schools and assisted living centers.

He also was able to gather and send school supplies to children in need in Mexico.

To satisfy his four-night expedition or exploration requirement, Nicholas hiked over 60 miles at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Benjamin Connell, 24, also began the program in 1999. He said he was attracted to the structure and direction for setting goals the program would bring to his life.

"It also provided accountability in attaining my goals because my advisors tracked my progress," he added.

Benjamin spent most of his community service time at Lakeview Village Retirement